

Mr. PENCE. Well, tomorrow the White House will convene a so-called summit on health care reform. It's supposedly an effort to find bipartisan agreement and consensus on reform. And frankly, if the administration and Democrats in Congress were willing to scrap the bill and start over with a clean sheet of paper, I would be all for it.

The American people long for health care reform that will lower the cost of health care insurance without growing the size of government. But that is not what's happening here. Instead of scrapping the bill, the President's actually produced his own bigger, worse version of the bills that passed the House and Senate and then were summarily rejected by the American people: more spending, more taxes, more government, and coverage for abortion.

Instead of starting over, Democrats in Congress continue to threaten to abuse the very rules of this institution by passing some version of their health care reform bill by a simple majority in the Senate—known as reconciliation.

Tomorrow's summit is looking more and more like a taxpayer-funded media event designed to set up passage of ObamaCare 2.0. The American people deserve to know it.

□ 1030

THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. PIERLUISI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I support health care reform, but I do not support the proposal put forward by the White House, because it mistreats 4.4 million Americans living in Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories. They are treated like second-class citizens.

My loyalty to my party and to our President is beyond question, but my principles and my people come first. This proposal violates my principles, and it mistreats my people.

In Puerto Rico, the Federal Government pays less than 25 percent of the cost of providing Medicaid services. That is a national travesty. The House took important steps to mitigate this disparity in funding. Yet the White House proposal does not make a good-faith effort to address this inequality. Moreover, the proposal excludes Puerto Rico from the exchange but allows non-citizen residents of the States to participate. This is discrimination, and it is no way to treat one's fellow Americans.

I do not believe this proposal reflects the President's thinking, and I cannot believe my colleagues will allow it to stand. The people of Puerto Rico and the other territories fight proudly for their country. Their country should fight for them, too.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this administration and Democrats in Congress don't seem to have an answer to the single most important question workers across the country are asking: "Where are the jobs?" The American people don't want more political pandering on the economy and health care; they want action now that will control runaway Federal spending and create jobs.

The third time is not the charm, Mr. President. When government-controlled health care was introduced in the House, the American people rejected it. Strike one. When government-controlled health care was introduced in the Senate, the American people rejected it. Strike two. And when the President puts his government control of health care on the table before a bipartisan handful on Thursday, the American people will reject that, too. Strike three.

The Democrats need to scrap their job-killing policies, like a government takeover of health care and national energy tax, and begin working with Republicans on commonsense solutions to create jobs and reduce out-of-control spending. It's time we work together to get this economy moving again and to help put people back to work.

RECOVERY ACT IS WORKING

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you, here are the jobs. I believe if you polled across America you would understand that the investment that this Democratic Congress made, along with its President, created or saved 3.5 million jobs, gave 95 percent of American workers a tax cut, and began to build our crumbling rail and water and a variety of infrastructure.

Where are the jobs? I will tell you, 2.4 million jobs were created according to the Congressional Budget Office, non-partisan, \$120 billion in tax cuts to 95 percent of our working families and to businesses, loaned nearly \$20 billion to our small businesses creating or saving a job.

What I like most of all is the 300,000 jobs in education and the 400,000 jobs in corrections officers and public health personnel. Let's ask all the firefighters and police officers across America whether or not there were jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that we have invested in America. We had an economy that wasn't growing when we came in, down some 6 percent. Now it's up. We have the jobs, and we are going to do health care reform this morning as well.

We are working for the American people.

ENACT TORT REFORM NOW

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the administration's health care bill fails to include a Republican solution that could actually achieve savings for patients—lawsuit abuse reform.

Forty percent of medical malpractice suits against doctors and hospitals are without merit, according to a study by the Harvard School of Public Health. And excess damages add \$70 billion to \$126 billion annually to health care costs, the Department of Health and Human Services has found. These costs, of course, are passed on to patients.

The administration has only suggested a pilot program for tort reform. But some States, including my home State of Texas, have already enacted tort reform. These States have seen insurance premiums fall and access to medical care expand.

We don't need a pilot program. We need to enact medical malpractice lawsuit abuse reform.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL

(Mrs. HALVORSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. HALVORSON. Where are the jobs? I think we can answer that every time we speak. In my district it is happening quite literally.

Recently I was very proud to announce \$1.2 billion in Recovery Act funding being invested in Illinois for high-speed rail lines from Chicago to St. Louis. Two of the towns in my district happen to be stops along the rail line—Joliet and Normal.

There are those who have said, and continue to say, that projects like these will not put people to work, that the stimulus isn't working. But here is the reality: These high-speed rail lines in Illinois alone are going to put 6,000 people to work. This wouldn't have been possible without the investment in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

I am proud that the Recovery Act is putting these people to work and putting our communities back on the track to recovery. We must continue to invest in American infrastructure, build upon the work of the Recovery Act is doing, and continue working to create jobs. The future of our districts depends on it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)